

**Amendment and Response**

Applicant: Maxine C. Thome et al.

Serial No.: 09/929,827

Filed: August 14, 2001

Docket No.: P147.102.101

Title: LIGHT GUARD

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wherein the body extends directly from the edge of the base flange generally perpendicular relative to the base flange, and wherein the base flange is configured and arranged for disposition between, and in contact against, a light socket fixture and a building mounting surface.

2. (Amended) The guard of claim 1 wherein the means for removably securing further comprises:

at least one projection disposed on a first edge of the first body half and a hole disposed on a first edge of the second body half wherein the projection is configured to slidably engage the hole; and

at least one projection disposed on a second edge of the second body half and a hole disposed on a second edge of the first body half wherein the projection is configured to slidably engage the hole.

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3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Amended) The guard of claim 2 wherein the means for removably securing further comprises:

at least one clasp disposed on the first edge of the first body half and configured for slidably engaging a portion of the first edge of the second body half; and

at least one clasp disposed on the second edge of the second body half and configured for slidably engaging a portion of the second edge of the first body half.

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5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Amended) The guard of claim 1 wherein the means for removably securing includes a first portion disposed on an edge of the first body half and a second portion disposed on an edge of the second body half wherein the first portion and the second portion comprise at least one or

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more of a clasp, a pin, a hole, a beveled protrusion, a projection, a hook and loop fastener, a mechanical fastener, and a clip.

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7. (Cancelled)

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8. The guard of claim 1 wherein the base flange of each frame half has a generally semi-annular shape and includes at least one slot extending radially outward from a generally circular shaped, inner edge of the base flange, the slot being disposed at generally right angle relative to a side edge of the base flange so that when respective side edges of the two frame halves are joined together the slot of the first body half and the slot of the second body half are aligned diametrically opposed to each other and aligned generally parallel to each other.

9. The guard of claim 1 wherein each body includes a bottom edge having a generally semi-circular shape so that when the two body halves are joined together, the bottom edge forms a generally circular access hole for accessing a light bulb enclosed by the light guard.

10. (Amended) The guard of claim 1 wherein the base flange has a generally circular shape with a generally circular-shaped central hole.

11. (Amended) A method of guarding a light source mounted in a light socket fixture comprising:

securing a base portion of a frame between a base of a light socket fixture and a building mounting surface, to be in contact with the building mounting surface, to cause a body portion of the frame, which extends generally perpendicularly relative to the base portion of the frame, to extend in a spaced relationship alongside and about the light source.

12. (Amended) A method of guarding a light source mounted in a light socket fixture comprising:

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removably securing a first base portion of a frame between the light socket fixture and a fixed mounting surface, and to be in contact against both the light fixture and the fixed mounting surface, to cause a first body portion of the frame, which extends generally perpendicularly relative to the base portion of the frame, to extend in a spaced relationship generally parallel to and about the light source;

removably securing a second base portion of the frame between the light socket fixture and the fixed mounting surface, to be in contact against both the light fixture and the fixed mounting surface, to cause a second body portion of the frame, which extends generally perpendicularly relative to the second base portion of the frame, to extend in a spaced relationship generally parallel to and about the light source; and

removably securing the first body portion relative to the second body portion to protectively enclose the light source within the frame.

13. (Amended) A method of installing a light guard, the method comprising:

providing a light fixture in a secured position against a fixed mounting surface with the fixed mounting surface including at least one of a wall surface, a ceiling surface, and a electrical junction box; and

sandwiching a base flange of the light guard between the light fixture and the fixed mounting surface to position a body of the light guard, that extends generally perpendicular outward from the base flange, to extend a spaced relationship about a light source mounted in the light fixture.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein sandwiching the base flange further comprises:

loosening the light fixture relative to the fixed mounting surface;

inserting the base flange of the light guard between the light fixture and the fixed mounting surface; and

tightening the light fixture against the base flange of the light guard and the fixed mounting surface.

15. (Amended) A light guard comprising:

a base portion having a generally circular shape that defines a central hole and including a plurality of

slots configured and positioned to receive a fastener in each slot, with the fastener being independent from the light guard, and to direct the fastener through a light fixture and the slot for securing the light fixture against the base portion; and

a body portion extending generally perpendicular outward from the base portion in a generally

cylindrical shape and defining a latticework of support members.

wherein the base portion and the body portion are comprised of two halves configured substantially the same as each other and including a releasably securing mechanism mountable on at least one of the two halves for releasably securing the two halves together.

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16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

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18. (Amended) A light guard comprising:

a base portion having a generally annular shape that defines a central hole with the central hole being sized and configured for securing the base portion directly against a building mounting surface independent of a base of a light fixture with a diameter of the central hole being greater than a diameter of the base of the light fixture; and

a body portion extending generally perpendicular outward from the base in a generally cylindrical shape and defining a latticework of support members.

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19. The light guard of claim 18 wherein the base portion comprises at least one of the following fastening mechanisms for securing the base portion against the mounting surface, including:

a plurality of holes, a hook and loop fastener, a pressure sensitive adhesive, a glue and a wall anchor.

20. (Amended) A light guard comprising:

a base portion having a generally annular shape that defines a central hole and an outer generally circular edge, with the base portion configured and arranged for disposition between, and in contact against, a light socket fixture and a building mounting surface;

a body portion having a generally cylindrical shape and defining a latticework of support members, and extending generally perpendicular outward from the base portion directly from the outer generally circular edge; and

a living hinge connecting a first half and a second half of the light guard to permit the first half and the second half to be moved between an open position for access to an interior of the body portion and a closed position for preventing access to an interior of the body portion.

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21. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein providing a light fixture in a secured position comprises:

providing a pair of holes that extend through the light fixture;

extending a fastener through each hole of the light fixture and securing each fastener into the fixed mounting surface to secure the light fixture against the fixed mounting surface.

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